

WEEK 3: NEXT LEVEL UNITY

From Egypt, Abram returned to the land God has given him. Soon after, Abram and Lot's employees started to quarrel and the two needed to settle the matter. In this story, we find Abram and Lot making a difficult decision to part ways. Here we will learn the importance of unity and the ultimate power of the choices we make.

SCRIPTURE Genesis 13

OBSERVATION

- In the story of Genesis 13, Abram and Lot separated from each other. Is that the right tact to take in order to maintain peace? How do (Acts 15:39; 1Cor. 7:10-16) inform the discussion? Can you think of any scripture passages that point us in to stick together and work at being peaceful?
- When Abram left Egypt after being disgraced in his faithlessness, he traveled to Bethel (Genesis 13:3-4). What was important to Abram about this location? What did he do there? What does this show about Abram at this time? How do you think he felt?
- Places are significant to God. Sometimes there are places of remembrance for failures and other places of remembrance for victories. Do you have any special places in your life where God has done some great things, or places that serve as warnings of past failure?
- Abram and Lot in the hill country around Bethel decide to separate. As the senior man, Abram could have chosen the best land for himself. However he gave the first choice to his nephew, Lot. Why could Abram afford to let Lot choose the best land (Genesis 13:2-3)? What attributes and promises of God did Abram root himself in? When your rights, your future, and your prosperity seem to hang in the balance, what do you normally do? What lessons should we learn from Abram's faith in this particular situation?
- On what basis does Lot make his choice according to (Genesis 13:10)? What did he fail to consider in his decision making? Has that ever been an issue for you in your life? Have you made decisions enamored with things that don't matter and blind to things that do?

APPLICATION

- How we handle quarrels can make all the difference in our lives. If we walk by sight it will lead to ruin, but if we walk by faith God will reward us. What can we learn from Abram and Lot about how we should resolve conflicts and keeping the unity?
- How does the example of Jesus in (Rom. 5:6-11; Phil. 2:4-8) challenge you in your endeavors to resolve conflict and find reconciliation with others?
- Read Ephesians 4:3. We must be resolved not to allow ourselves, our families, or our church to get caught up in quarrels. How can we stay away from pointless and divisive drama?
- What is the godly way to resolve conflict? Read Matthew 18:15-20.
- Lot's choice ultimately led him away from the Lord. Have you ever been led away from your relationship with God because of your poor choices?
- Sticking together and working out our difference is so much better than division. But when is it right to walk away from a relationship? Read Romans 16:17.

PRAYER



GENESIS 13

1 So Abram went up from Egypt to the Negev, with his wife and everything he had, and Lot went with him. 2 Abram had become very wealthy in livestock and in silver and gold.

3 From the Negev he went from place to place until he came to Bethel, to the place between Bethel and Ai where his tent had been earlier 4 and where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the Lord.

5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. 7 And quarrelling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. 5 Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. 6 But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. 7 And quarrelling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time.

8 So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarrelling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. 9 Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

10 Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) 11 So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: 12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. 13 Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.